

## **ALERT FACT SHEET**

Emergency Missing Persons Alerts are proven to be successful in sharing information and ultimately locating endangered missing persons. These alerts are essential tools for both law enforcement and the public. Each case has unique circumstances that make one alert a more appropriate tool over another. All alerts are intended to share information that's in the best interest of finding the missing person and in keeping public attention on the alert program.

### **AMBER Alert vs Endangered Missing Person Alert (EMPA)**

Amber Alert criteria:

The criteria for an incident to qualify for issuance of a statewide AMBER Alert are listed below. These criteria should be closely followed except where the investigation uncovers extraordinary circumstances that warrant such an alert.

1. A child is known by law enforcement officials to have been abducted;
  - a. The child is not simply missing/runaway/lost; abduction must be known;
2. The abduction occurred within 12 hours of initial activation of AMBER Alert;
3. The child must be 17 years or younger, or with a proven mental or physical disability, and police must believe that the child has been abducted (unwillingly taken from his or her environment without permission from the child's parent or guardian);
4. Law enforcement must believe the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death;
5. There must be enough descriptive information to believe that an AMBER Alert will assist in the recovery of the child (must include as much of the following information as possible);
  - a. Where the abduction took place;
  - b. A specific physical description of the child (can include clothing worn when last seen; height, weight, age, hair and eye color, hair length, any additional distinguishing physical characteristics);
  - c. A physical description of the abductor can include approximate height, weight, hair color/length, eye/skin color, clothing; any distinguishing physical characteristics;
  - d. Place last seen; direction of travel if known;
  - e. Description of the vehicle should include color, year, make, body model, license number, and state.
6. The child must be entered in NCIC as involuntary with a child abduction flag.

If the above criteria aren't met and there is an endangerment factor to the missing person a Statewide or targeted Endangered Missing Person Alert (EMPA) can be issued.

#### EMPA Criteria:

1. Endangerment or imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death for missing persons such as; age, weather conditions, known abduction of a person over the age of 17 (for known abduction of children 17 and younger, see AMBER Alert), and any other factors the Law Enforcement believes the missing person could be endangered.
2. There should be enough descriptive information of the missing person, vehicle, or suspect to believe that an EMPA will assist in locating the missing person.
3. Missing person must be entered into NCIC.

#### Distribution path of AMBER Alert:

Law Enforcement notifies ISP AMBER Alert Coordinator, once criteria are met, AMBER Alert is sent to StateComm, ITD for road signs, Broadcasters, Idaho Lottery Terminals, Private Partners, NCMEC, (if applicable) issue Wireless Emergency Alert cell phone distribution, Social Media, LE notifications, CodeRed APP and subscribers, Digital billboards, Twitter feed @ISP\_Alerts, and the Idaho Missing Person Clearinghouse Facebook page will continue to update information as the case evolves.

#### Distribution path of EMPA:

Law Enforcement notified ISP Missing Person Clearinghouse Coordinator, once approved the EMPA is sent to StateComm, ITD for road signs\* (if applicable), Broadcasters, Idaho Lottery Terminals, Private Partners, NCMEC, issue Wireless Emergency Alert cell phone distribution\* (if applicable), Social Media, LE notifications, CodeRed APP and subscribers, Digital billboards, Twitter feed @ISP\_Alerts, and the Idaho Missing Person Clearinghouse Facebook page will continue to update information as the case evolves.

\*Road Signs and Wireless Emergency Alert is activated if a vehicle is known.

#### FAQ:

Why would law enforcement not activate an AMBER Alert for my missing child?

AMBER Alerts are specialized tools used for specific missing children cases. Idaho has six criteria that must be met before law enforcement can issue an Alert, and law enforcement has other tools to search for other types of missing children including the

Endangered Missing Person Alert. Please see the AMBER Alert criteria and other information about AMBER Alerts in Idaho.

Does an Idaho AMBER Alert or Endangered Missing Person Alert get distributed nationally?

If Idaho broadcasts an AMBER Alert or Endangered Missing Person Alert, it is sent for distribution within Idaho. By sharing on social media and through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children help distribute nationally. If Law Enforcement believes the missing person or suspect to be in another state, the Idaho AMBER Alert Coordinator will work with that state's AMBER Alert Coordinator to issue in their respective state. However, each state must follow its own criteria.

What should I do if I suspect a possible missing person or exploitation in my area?

Do not confront the person(s) yourself. Contact your local law enforcement immediately and provide them with as much information as possible relating to names of the individuals, the length of time they have been in the neighborhood, vehicle information, and why you believe the police should be involved.

How can the community help with missing person cases?

Share the message, share on social media, distribute posters, and if something looks suspicious, report it to Law Enforcement right away. Follow [@ISP Alerts](#) on twitter and [Idaho Missing Person Clearinghouse](#) on Facebook for updates on Idaho AMBER Alerts and Endangered Missing Persons. Register to receive ISP notifications at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF6C5A0F9EF6> and download the CodeRed App to manage your notification settings.